

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-15 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-15 were objected to because of informalities, and Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for being indefinite. However, Claims 1-15 were indicated as including allowable subject matters.

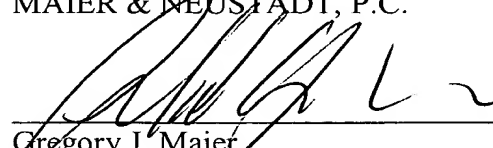
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-15 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 1-15 have been amended to correct the informalities noted under the claim objection and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and also to clarify the subject matters recited therein. Thus, Claims 1-15 are believed to be in compliance with the requirements of the statute and thus believed to be allowable. If, however, the Examiner disagrees with any of the amendments presented above, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work in a joint effort to derive mutually agreeable claim language and expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Application No. 09/807,412
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2003

In light of the prior indication of allowable subject matters and in view of the amendments presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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